

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Address August 17, 2018

### Delivering on Promises: The Health Subcommittee

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Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

As a physician serving in Congress and chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, I have a unique opportunity to shape and steward health care policy into the law of the land. This year, we've been hard at work delivering on our promises to the American people.

As we reflect on the first half of 2018, I wanted to share some updates about our work to improve health care for all Americans.

First, the House reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, known as CHIP, for 10 years – the most generous in the program's history. This reauthorization ensures that underserved children in North Texas and around the country will continue to have access to quality health care.

Our Subcommittee also helped to ensure that Community Health Centers received a two-year funding extension.

We helped to pass Right to Try legislation to give Americans suffering from terminal illness one last fighting chance. This legislation, which President Trump prioritized in his 2018 State of the Union Address, gives American patients – and their families – renewed hope with the “right to try.” President Trump signed Right to Try into law in May.

The Health Subcommittee also helped to enact the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research Act – called the STAR Act – to build on the work of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures. The STAR Act helps kids, like North Texan Sadie Keller, receive better care and access improved therapies for pediatric cancer.

Additionally, as our nation grapples with the devastating opioid crisis, the Health Subcommittee oversaw each step of the process to pass H.R.6, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act. This bill will improve access to care for individuals suffering from substance use disorder, provide our health care system with tools and resources it needs to care for patients, and help reduce the likelihood of individuals becoming dependent on opioids.

On top of passing such important legislation, we're focused on providing oversight as landmark laws, including 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures and the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA).

As you can see, the majority of these bills are commonsense and bipartisan. As chairman of this vital subcommittee, I am committed to finishing this work for North Texans and the American people.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.